

Crested Porcupine *Hystrix indica* den. While I was observing the den, a bat suddenly flew out, and settled on a tree nearby. I photographed the bat so that I could identify it later.

I compared photographs of the bat with the ones recorded from Gir and also with descriptions from Bates and Harrison (1997), Menon (2003) and Prater (2005). According to the Gir Management Plan, only two species of bats have been reported from Gir (Singh and Kamboj 1996), namely Flying Fox *Pteropus giganteus* and Short-nosed Fruit Bat *Cynopterus sphinx*. To confirm the identity of the bat I sent the photographs to Dr. Paul Bates, a bat specialist, Dr. Asad R. Rahmani (Director, BNHS), and Dr. Sandeep Kumar (Deputy Conservator of Forests, Wildlife Division, Sasan-Gir). The bat was identified as a Lesser False Vampire Bat *Megaderma spasma*. This is the first documentation of the Lesser False Vampire Bat *Megaderma spasma* from the Gir National Park and Sanctuary, Gujarat.

False vampire bats are tailless bats belonging to an ancient and carnivorous family Megadermatidae, which include five species in four genera (Bates and Harrison 1997; Macdonald 1999). There are two species of false vampire bats found in India: Greater False Vampire Bat *Megaderma lyra* and Lesser False Vampire Bat *Megaderma spasma*. These

bats have long oval ears that have a distinct smaller "inner ear" or tragus. The easier way to differentiate them is by the shape of their noseleaf. Lesser False Vampire Bat has short, broad and heart-shaped noseleaf base, while Greater False Vampire Bat has a much elongated noseleaf (Bates and Harrison 1997).

Lesser False Vampire Bat *Megaderma spasma* is known from India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, South-East Asia to Java, Philippines and Molucca Islands (Bates and Harrison 1997). In India, it is distributed in Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Mizoram and Andaman Islands (Bates and Harrison 1997; Menon 2003).

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#### 4. RECENT RECORDS OF GAUR *BOS GAURUS* SMITH IN BANGLADESH

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The range of Gaur *Bos gaurus* Smith 1827 extends from southern India to Vietnam (Ellerman and Morrison-Scott 1951; Choudhury 2002). It used to be common in the northern, north-eastern and south-eastern Bangladesh (Khan 1985; Asmat 2001; Choudhury 2002; Khan 2008). In the north and north-east, the Gaur used to occur along the foot of Garo, Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills in undivided Mymensingh and Sylhet districts. In the south-east, they used to occur in undivided Chittagong Hill Tracts and Chittagong districts. Khan (1985) surmised that there is possibly no resident population in Bangladesh. He recorded a case in 1980 where a Gaur strayed from Garo Hills, Meghalaya, to Durgapur of

undivided Mymensingh (now in Netrakona district) was killed and its meat taken by villagers. Khan (1985) and Asmat (2001) also stated that the last gaurs in herds were probably eliminated during the war of liberation in 1971.

I here report of some recent occurrence in Comilla and Feni (part of erstwhile undivided Noakhali district) districts, which were otherwise unrecorded cases and no publication of that country such as Khan (2008) also mentioned of these. These records were obtained during field visits in the fringe villages of Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary in Tripura, north-east India, in January 2008.

In 2004, a Gaur from Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary strayed

to Feni area of Bangladesh through Siddhinagar. What happened to it subsequently is not known. Feni is in erstwhile undivided Noakhali district (now Feni district).

In March-April 2007, three Gaurs, a bull and two cows, (one was pregnant) strayed from Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary through Garjania to 'Suorbazar' area of Bangladesh. Their fate also went unrecorded.

In the first week of November 2007, a bull from Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary strayed into Kuderpathar through Rajnagar area and was killed for meat.

In areas near India-Bangladesh border, Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary in Tripura and Dampa Tiger Reserve in Mizoram are the closest having Gaur populations. Balpakram National Park in Meghalaya, an important Gaur habitat, is a little distance away but straying of Gaur is possible owing to their habit of doing so (Choudhury 2002). In Khasi and Jaintia Hills sectors of Meghalaya, the Gaur is either extinct or stray individuals survive with lesser chances of straying into that country. In southern Assam (Karimganj district) and northern and western Tripura also the Gaur has vanished from forest areas nearer to the border. However, there could still be some stray movement between forests near Gumti Wildlife Sanctuary of Tripura and Mizoram areas with the forests in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Khan (2008) included Gaur in the list of lost species but mentioned of possible vagrant animals in north-east (undivided Sylhet area) and south-east (Chittagong Hill Tracts) but did not mention of any recent specific cases and also not the areas mentioned in this note, which are actually in eastern Bangladesh.

Such frequent straying from Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary had ensured Bangladesh's name in the range countries of the Gaur. However, such straying is going to be stopped completely owing to border fencing. While such fencing has proved to be harmful for Asian Elephants *Elephas maximus* at different sectors (Choudhury 2007), for the gaurs of Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary it is going to be a boon as it will stop straying into Bangladesh as well as getting killed as there is no habitat in that sector across the border and the animals land up in densely inhabited villages only to get killed and

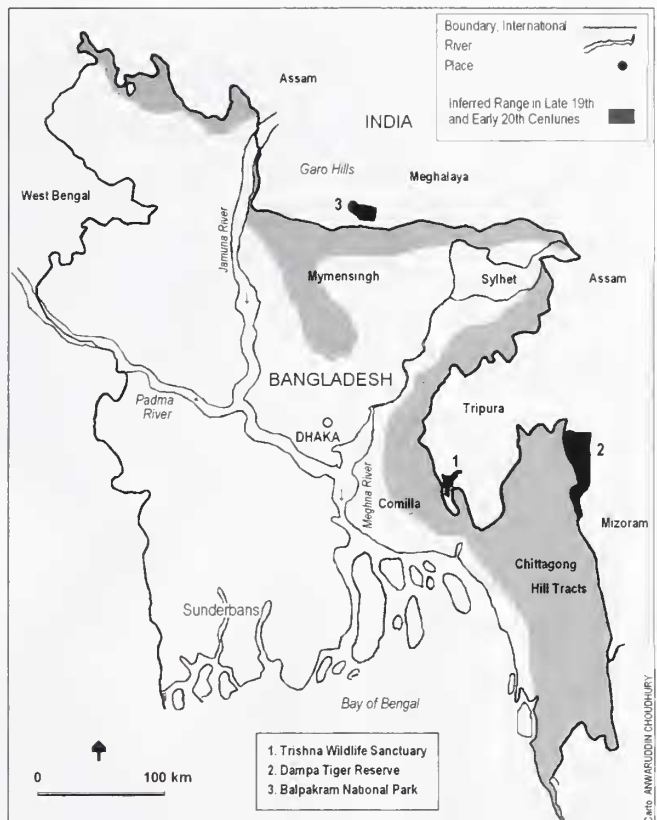


Fig. 1: Map of Bangladesh showing some of the areas/places mentioned in the text

eaten. With complete halt of movement from Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary, the only movement will remain in Dampa sector, Mizoram-Chittagong Hill Tracts, but fencing is also going to be erected here very soon. After closing of the Dampa border with Chittagong Hill Tracts the gaur can be listed as extinct in Bangladesh!

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